

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1915 (NO. 42; NOS. 39682 TO 40388).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Owing to the disturbed condition of ocean traffic and the uncertainty of getting perishable plant material in, no expeditions were undertaken except that into the Province of Kansu, China, which had been planned for two years. Nevertheless, an unusual number of interesting and important plants are described in this number of the inventory. Mr. Frank N. Meyer, who made the Kansu expedition, although hampered by the difficulty of getting good interpreters who were willing to accompany him to the borders of Tibet, succeeded in getting as far as the capital of Kansu Province, but was obliged to retrace his steps from that point.

He discovered a number of very interesting plants, however, among which perhaps the most important will be found to be some large-fruited wild freestone peaches, *Amygdalus* spp. (No. 40001 to 40006); the Tangutian bush almond, *Amygdalus tangutica* (Nos. 39898, 40010, and 40011), a species very resistant to drought and cold; a wild pear, *Pyrus ussuriensis* (No. 40019), of the melting, juicy type, quite distinct from the characteristic hard, gritty ones of China; a wild species of grape, *Vitis* sp. (No. 40026), with small bunches of black edible berries; wild hardy apricots, *Prunus armeniaca* (Nos. 40012 and 40013), which may enable breeders to extend the area of successful apricot culture farther northward; a very hardy dwarf crab apple, *Malus* sp. (No. 39923), from an altitude of 9,000 feet in Kansu; a wild gooseberry, *Ribes alpestre giganteum* (No. 39916), growing 15 feet tall, found on dry embankments, a promising hedge plant for the cold semiarid sections of the United States; a very vigorous-growing currant, *Ribes* sp. (No. 39910), from 7,000 feet altitude, which makes a bush 25 feet tall; a wild cherry, *Prunus setulosa* (No. 39911), which has possibilities as a stock plant; Potanin's peach, *Amygdalus persica potanini* (Nos. 40007 to 40009), a bushy form resembling otherwise *A. davidiana*, which has been so successful as a stock, but